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RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

[From November 10, 1901, to May 10, 1902.]

I. THE UNITED STATES.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.— After the failure of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty of 1900, dealing with the Isthmian Canal (see RECORD for June, 1901, p. 370), negotiations with Great Britain were resumed with the design of meeting the objections raised by the Senate. The result was a convention, signed November 18, 1901, that provided for a complete **abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty** and assured to the United States the sole right to construct and maintain the canal, together with the necessary power to police it. Great Britain also agreed to withdraw from the joint guaranty of the neutrality of the canal, on condition that the United States would agree to accept substantially the rules now governing the free navigation of the Suez Canal. A further proviso, however, was added, to the effect that no change in the sovereignty, or in the international relations, of the countries traversed by the canal, should alter the general principle of neutralization. The Senate ratified the treaty, December 16, by a vote of 72 to 6. — **The choice of a route for the proposed canal** has been actively debated. On December 9 a protocol was concluded with Nicaragua, arranging for a lease of territory through which the canal would run by the Nicaraguan route. The final, as well as the preliminary, report of the Isthmian Canal Commission favored this route, chiefly on account of the financial difficulties in the way of acquiring the property and franchises of the Panama Canal Company. But on January 4 the Panama Company made a formal offer of its property and franchises to the United States for \$40,000,000, the valuation which the Canal Commission itself had placed upon the work already done on the Panama route. The Commission thereupon recommended an acceptance of the offer. This led Nicaragua and Costa Rica to withdraw from the protocols made with the United States, December 1, 1900, in connection with the defunct Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and on February 27 Colombia forbade the Panama Canal Company to transfer its concession to the United States until it had fulfilled certain stipulations in its contract with the former state. Negotiations have since been instituted with Colombia, Nicaragua and Costa Rica to determine the bases for future arrangements in regard to the canal, whenever Congress shall have fixed the route. — A series of somewhat desultory negotiations resulted in a treaty with Denmark, January 24, providing for the **acquisition of the Danish West Indies**. According to the terms of the treaty as unanimously approved by

the Senate, February 17, Denmark ceded the islands to the United States for \$5,000,000, and Congress undertook to determine the civil rights and political status of the inhabitants, without detriment to the privileges already enjoyed. The people, however, were to have two years in which to declare their allegiance. The treaty also provided that, in case of a disagreement over its terms which could not be settled by ordinary diplomatic methods, the subjects in dispute should be submitted for decision to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague. On March 14 the Danish Folkething, or lower house, duly ratified the convention; but in the Landsting, or upper house, some opposition has since developed to the cession of the islands, except with the approval of their white inhabitants. A treaty of extradition, also, was concluded with Denmark, January 6.—Early in April a treaty with Great Britain was signed that extended to the British colonies the existing convention for the protection of industrial property.—The United States supplemented its partial acceptance of the conventions agreed upon by the Peace Conference at The Hague (see RECORD for December, 1900, p. 753) when the Senate, March 14, ratified the convention regarding the laws and customs of war on land.

THE DEPENDENCIES.—Two important events have marked the approaching autonomy of Cuba. The first was the elections held in Cuba on December 31 for the choice of President and senatorial electors, members of the House of Representatives and provincial officers. The returns showed the election of General Tomás Estrada Palma as President, and Dr. Luís Estevo as Vice-President of the republic. On May 5 the newly elected Senate and House of Representatives met to pass upon the credentials of their respective members. The other event in question was the issue of an executive order at Washington, March 25, providing for the evacuation of Cuba and the transfer of its government from American to Cuban control on May 20. A few companies of coast artillery, however, were to be left to garrison the fortifications of the island until the Cuban government should replace them with its own troops. Acts of some note on the part of the existing military administration were the orders of February 8, creating a commission to regulate the construction and management of railroads, and of April 16, safeguarding judicial officers against arbitrary removal or suspension. At the request of the police courts and *audiencias* throughout the island, the jury system was abolished, April 5, on account of the difficulty it had caused in obtaining convictions.—The chief work of the military forces in the Philippines has been the suppression of the insurrectionary movements in the island of Samar and in the province of Batangas in Luzon. By severe and vigorous measures Lukban and Malvar, the sole remaining Filipino chiefs of any prominence, were made prisoners, and the rebellious agitation was checked. A rising of Moro chiefs on the island of Mindanao early in May was also suppressed after a sharp fight. Incidentally to these campaigns, charges of barbarous cruelty toward the natives were made against officers of the army, and on investigation it

became known that the orders of Brigadier-General Jacob H. Smith, the chief in command in Samar, had authorized the troops to kill all natives over ten years of age and capable of bearing arms, and to ravage the island without limit. These orders evoked much indignation in the United States, and on April 25 a court martial to try General Smith convened at Manila. — Under the head of civil government, the annual **report of the Philippines Commission** had a number of important recommendations. It suggested the erection of an insular government in 1904, to consist of a governor, an appointive legislative council and an elective assembly. These bodies by joint vote should elect two delegates to Congress. In order to promote the industrial development of the islands, the Commission proposed the adoption of a differential tariff in favor of exports from the Philippines to the United States, the purchase by the state of the lands belonging to the religious orders, the grant of franchises to public and private corporations and the enactment of laws concerning coinage, banking, public lands and timber and mining rights. The recommendations were supplemented by a memorial to Congress from the Federal party in the islands, praying that the Philippines should be made an integral part of the United States, and that they should be erected into a territory with the privilege of eventual statehood. — The chief feature in **the legislation of Porto Rico** has been the enactment of a comprehensive code of law for the island. — In the relations of the United States with the dependencies, the most noteworthy element has been **the struggle in Congress over tariff concessions to Cuba and the Philippines**. The parts of President Roosevelt's message to Congress that dealt with the dependencies upheld the enforcement of the "sternest measures" in suppressing the insurrection in the Philippines, which "has become an affair of local banditti and marauders." Nevertheless the President pleaded the necessity of patience and resolution in fitting the inhabitants for the duties of self-government. The specific recommendations in the message resembled those offered by the Philippines Commission (see above). They called for a liberal treatment of the dependencies in general as a means of assuring industrial development, and incidentally advocated the immediate construction of a cable to Hawaii and the Philippines. As to Cuba the President urged that there were "weighty reasons of morality and of national interest" to prove the "vital need of providing for a substantial reduction in the tariff duties on Cuban imports into the United States." The real issue of the controversy in Congress arose in connection with **the proposed reduction of duties on Cuban sugar**. For more than two months a stubborn contest, waged in repeated caucuses of the Republican members of the House, threatened to disrupt the party majority. To the plea that the United States was morally obligated to grant tariff concessions to Cuba the representatives of the beet-sugar interest — and to a less extent those of the cane-sugar growers — offered a variety of objections and proposals. They denied that there was any moral question in the matter, or that Cuba

really needed any relief. They asserted that such concessions violated the essential principle of protection, crippled the beet-sugar industry for the benefit of German competitors and the "Sugar Trust," and constituted a dangerous precedent for future action. If concessions must be made, however, they proposed either the direct payment to the Cuban government of a certain percentage of the revenues from imports from Cuba into the United States, in return for the reduction of Cuban import duties by the same percentage; or the negotiation of a special treaty of reciprocity with Cuba. At length, on March 18, a resolution opposed to the demands of the beet-sugar faction was adopted by the Republican caucus. Accordingly the bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means provided that, whenever Cuba should have enacted immigration, exclusion and contract-labor laws as restrictive as those of the United States, the President should be authorized to negotiate with Cuba a treaty of reciprocity on the basis of a mutual reduction of twenty per cent in the tariff duties of the respective countries. The treaty, however, should be in force till December 1, 1903, only, — two months after the date fixed by the Brussels conference for the proposed abolition of bounties by the countries of Europe that produce beet sugar (see below, p. 357). In a final attempt to defeat this measure in Congress the "beet-sugar Republicans" obtained the aid of the Democrats in forcing through an amendment that abolished the differential duty on refined sugar during the existence of the reciprocity treaty. Then the House passed the bill, April 18, by a vote of 247 to 52, the minority consisting chiefly of dissatisfied Republicans. The Senate, thereupon, ordered its Committee on Relations with Cuba to ascertain whether the "Sugar Trust" controlled the production of sugar in the island. — The only other business in Congress that concerned the relations of the United States with Cuba was that contained in a special message from President Roosevelt, March 27. He recommended that provision be made for the diplomatic and consular representation of the United States in the new republic, and for the conclusion of a treaty to carry into effect the terms of the so-called "Platt amendment" to the army appropriation act of 1901 (see last RECORD, p. 742, and that for June, 1901, p. 373). An appropriation bill embodying the first of these recommendations was passed by the Senate, May 7. — Following the lines laid down in the President's message, a **temporary measure to provide revenue for the Philippines** was introduced in the House. It confirmed the tariff duties already fixed by the Philippines Commission, but provided that imports from the Philippines should pay the same duties in the United States as imports from foreign countries; that exports from the United States should be exempt from internal revenue taxes and subject only to the customs duties in the Philippines; and that the proceeds from all such duties should be expended in the islands alone. The bill passed the House, December 18, by a vote of 163 to 128, four Democrats voting in the affirmative and five Republicans in the negative. The Senate proceeded to amend it by reducing the tariff rates on importations from the

Philippines by twenty-five per cent, and by deducting as well the amount of the export duty levied in the islands. It also added a rider modifying somewhat the strictness of the laws of treason in the Philippines. After some demur the House accepted these amendments, March 4, and the bill became law. — Owing to reports of cruel treatment inflicted by American soldiers upon the natives in the Philippines — especially the so-called "water-cure," a process used to extort information — the Senate authorized its committee on the islands to investigate the conditions existing there, and in particular the conduct of the war.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION. — **Changes in the cabinet** due to resignations have been as follows: the appointment of Henry C. Payne of Wisconsin, as Postmaster-General, to succeed Charles E. Smith of Pennsylvania; of Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa, as Secretary of the Treasury, to succeed Lyman J. Gage of Illinois; and of William H. Moody of Massachusetts, as Secretary of the Navy, to succeed John D. Long of the same state. — Several **extensions of the civil service rules** have been made. An order of the President, November 19, revoked so much of the modifications effected by President McKinley in May, 1899 (see RECORD for December, 1899, p. 744), as to restore various offices in the War Department to the classified service. Similarly, on November 27, the President authorized the application of the rules to Indian agencies. On December 14, he ordered public officials, whenever called upon, to furnish the Civil Service Commission with all needful information. At the same time he directed that appointments should be more closely confined to the lists of eligibles; that compensation should be withheld from persons illegally vested with office, pending their dismissals; and that the evasion of competitive examinations should be checked by a thorough restriction of the system of transfers from one branch of the public service to another. — The **opinion of the naval court of inquiry** on the conduct of Rear Admiral Schley during the Santiago campaign (see last RECORD, p. 743) was rendered December 13. The court declared that officer guilty of negligence and disobedience of orders, but recommended that no further proceedings be taken in the matter. On an appeal to the President by Admiral Schley the judgment was sustained.

CONGRESS. — The first session of the Fifty-seventh Congress began December 2. The Senate reelected Senator Frye of Maine as its presiding officer, and in the House David B. Henderson of Iowa was reelected Speaker. A sensational incident on the floor of the Senate was furnished on February 22 by a personal encounter between Messrs. Tillman and McLaurin, the senators from South Carolina, over a provocative assertion of the latter. The Senate promptly suspended both members for contempt, but a few days later reinstated them with a resolution of censure. — The **President's message** devoted considerable space to a denunciation of anarchism, and called for legislation to cope with the evil and to place attacks upon the President and upon officers in line of succession to the

presidency under the jurisdiction of the federal courts. It upheld publicity "as the only sure remedy" for "trusts," and hence recommended the supervision of all industrial combinations engaged in interstate commerce. It advocated, also, the creation of an executive department of commerce and industries, the tightening of restrictions upon immigration, especially by the reënactment of the Chinese exclusion law, and the facilitation of efforts to remove the abuses of the convict-labor system. The President deprecated any modification of the tariff laws, except by way of reciprocity, and suggested the reduction of the war taxes so as to "bring the revenues more nearly within the limit of actual needs." He called for an amendment of the Interstate Commerce Act to prevent discrimination in rates to shippers, and for legislation to improve the merchant marine. A thorough reform of the consular service, he said, should be undertaken, the navy should be strengthened by the formation of a naval reserve, and the army rendered more efficient by the creation of a general staff and the betterment of the militia service. He urged, also, a greater protection of the forest reserves, and the construction by the federal government of a system of canals and reservoirs for the irrigation of arid lands. Finally, he recommended that the census office be made a permanent bureau, and that the Indians be recognized more fully as individuals by breaking up the tribal funds.—Despite this abundance of recommendation Congress has enacted few important measures into law. Aside from the tariff legislation for the Philippines (see above, p. 349) and the routine appropriation bills, only three of them deserve mention. One erected the census office into a permanent bureau (signed March 7); another (signed April 14) reduced the surplus revenue by approximately \$77,000,000, through a **repeal of the remaining war taxes** of 1898 (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1901, p. 375). The third called forth vigorous discussion before it became law. As introduced by members of Congress from the states along the Pacific coast it provided for **the rigorous exclusion of Chinese immigrants**. To this end it reënacted the existing laws on the subject and, in addition, forbade the entrance into the United States of Chinese inhabitants of the dependencies, and the employment of Chinese on American vessels. In this form it passed the House, April 7. The majority of the Senate, however, opposed the measure as a violation of treaty rights, as likely to bring on retaliation by China and as hurtful to American shipping interests in the Pacific. Hence that body approved a substitute bill which merely continued the exclusion laws now in force till the expiration of the present treaty with China, extended their application to the dependencies and enlarged the number of persons exempted from the prohibition. This was eventually accepted by the House, and the President signed the bill April 29.—A matter that has occupied much attention in Congress has been the **Isthmian Canal question**. After a perfunctory debate, the House by a vote of 307 to 2, on January 9, passed again the Nicaragua Canal Bill of 1901 (see RECORD for June, 1901, p. 364), with the single modification that the amount

to be expended was increased. But the offer of the Panama Canal Company to dispose of its concession to the United States (see above, p. 346), and the doubt raised as to its ability to convey a clear title, have prevented thus far any action of the Senate on the measure. — Other proposals for legislation have passed the Senate as follows: a resolution for an amendment to the Constitution, providing for the determination of the succession to the presidency (January 30); and bills to create an executive department of commerce and labor in which the census bureau should be included (January 8), to reclaim arid lands by irrigation (March 1), to promote the merchant marine by the payment of subsidies to vessels classified as to tonnage and speed and employing a certain proportion of Americans in their crews (March 17), and to protect the President, the officers in line of succession to the presidency, and foreign rulers, against anarchistic attacks. The House also approved measures as follows: on March 10, establishing the rural free delivery service as a permanent feature of the postal system, classifying it and placing the carriers on a salaried basis; on May 2, defining conspiracy, and regulating the use of injunctions in labor disputes; and on May 9, granting statehood to the territories of Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico, with an amendment prohibiting the exercise of polygamy. Among the bills that have reached the stage of favorable report in the House may be mentioned those maintaining the gold standard providing for a more elastic currency and increasing the supply of subsidiary coin, and rendering the immigration laws more stringent in their exclusion of anarchists and other undesirable persons.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.—The most important decision of the Supreme Court was that of December 2 (*Pepke vs. the United States*, commonly known as “the fourteen diamond rings case”) which declared **the status of the Philippines** to be the same as that of Porto Rico. By the same majority as that in the case of *De Lima vs. Bidwell*, and for substantially the same reasons (see last RECORD, p. 744), the court held that the Philippine Islands were domestic territory, and hence that duties levied upon commodities imported into the United States from that dependency under the existing tariff act were illegal. The court also affirmed its previous decision in a second suit of *Dooley vs. the United States* (see as above).—In the case of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company *vs. Kentucky*, January 6, the court held that the constitutional and statutory provision of a state prohibiting a railroad company from charging more for a shorter than for a longer haul, except by permission of a railroad commission, does not interfere with interstate commerce, deny the equal protection of the laws or infringe the guaranty of due process of law. In *Clark vs. Titusville*, March 3, it was held that the equal protection of the laws was not denied by a city ordinance imposing a license tax on merchants and dividing them for the purpose into classes according to the amount of their sales. In the case of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad Company *vs. Hewes*, November 18, the court declared that the act of a state

legislature in exempting a railroad company from taxation for a given period and then, under a clause of the state constitution which authorizes the taxation of corporations, revoking or altering the exemption, does not impair the obligation of contracts. On the other hand, it was held (*City of Detroit vs. Detroit Citizens Street Railway Company*, March 3) that when a city has allowed a street railway company to charge a certain rate of fare, and the company has, by adopting the rate, acquired a contract right to charge it, any attempt to reduce the same without the consent of the company is unconstitutional. Also, April 7, in the case of *Stockard vs. Tax Officials*, the court declared unconstitutional, as an interference with interstate commerce, a law of Tennessee which imposes a tax on local agents of foreign merchants.

STATE LEGISLATION.—The returns of the election held on November 11 showed the **adoption of the new constitution in Alabama** by a majority of 26,000, and hence the practical disfranchisement of many negroes in that state (see last RECORD, pp. 744, 745).—The chief issue in the discussions of the **Virginia constitutional convention** over the means of eliminating the negro vote was the advisability of incorporating a so-called “understanding clause” in the proposed constitution. By this clause a citizen, in order to be qualified as a voter, must be able to read or give a reasonable interpretation of any section of that document. The compromise eventually accepted, April 4, provided for the application of the “understanding clause” till 1904, after which time the qualifications for voting should be the payment of a poll tax and the ability to write one’s name and address legibly.—The question as to the maintenance of “town rule” in the legislature has been the dominant topic in the sessions of the **Connecticut constitutional convention**, which began on January 2 (*cf.* last RECORD, p. 745). It took the form of a contest over the so-called “one-sixty” clause proposed to be added to the revised constitution. This would reduce the membership in the lower house of the legislature from 252 to 168, on the basis of one representative from each town, and, in accordance with the constitutional amendment recently ratified, would make the Senate a more representative body, by increasing its membership from 24 to 60.—In New York a constitutional amendment was ratified, forbidding the legislature to pass local or special acts that would exempt property from taxation. At a special session, the legislature of Minnesota adopted a number of resolutions for constitutional amendments as follows: authorizing the legislature to impose a general income tax instead of taxes on personal property; providing methods for the taxation of public corporations; and replacing the inheritance tax by one on transfers of the estates of decedents.—**Acts against anarchism**, prescribing severe penalties for the practice of its principles, were passed in New York, New Jersey and Georgia.—The legislature of Mississippi approved a bill that will render party conventions practically useless by requiring that nominations for office shall be made in the primaries only, and by subjecting all primary elections to the control

of the state. That of New York concentrated the management of state hospitals for the insane in the state commission of lunacy, and provided for the appointment of a fiscal supervisor of charities. It also lengthened the period within which divorces may become effective, widened the scope of the liability of employers for accidents to their workmen, and authorized the indeterminate sentence for first offenses other than those of murder and arson. The legislature of Rhode Island tightened the restrictions about divorce by doubling the period prescribed for residence in the state before applications for the purpose may be made. Measures relating to **corporations** became law in New York, forbidding domestic corporations to assume the name of foreign bodies licensed to do business in the state, and in New Jersey, providing that stockholders dissatisfied with the merger of corporations may have a value fixed on their stock for which the new corporation will be liable. In Ohio the legislature passed acts compelling corporations to file annual statements of their business, taxing private corporations on their issued capital stock and doubling the tax already imposed upon public-service corporations.

THE TRUST QUESTION.—Much public interest has arisen in the **merger of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern railroad systems** under the control of a proprietary corporation known as the Northern Securities Company. Objection was brought against this consolidation of parallel and competing lines on the ground that it violated the laws of several states through which the roads run. At the suggestion, therefore, of the governor of Minnesota a conference of the governors and attorneys-general of the states concerned was held at Helena, Montana, December 30, and here it was decided that Minnesota should bring a bill of complaint in the United States Supreme Court for an injunction against the merger. But when Minnesota requested permission to offer the bill, the Supreme Court denied it, February 24, for the reason that the court had no jurisdiction over contests between the complaining state and the corporations involved in the merger, which were its own creatures. When the state of Washington, however, applied for a similar privilege, the Supreme Court granted it, April 21, because the objection arising in the case of Minnesota had no force here. On behalf of the federal government, also, the Attorney-General of the United States filed a bill in the circuit court for the district of Minnesota, March 10, for a permanent injunction against the merger on the ground that it violated the "anti-trust" statute of 1890. The Attorney-General also filed a bill for a similar purpose in the United States Circuit Court at Chicago, May 10, against the so-called "Beef Trust." The defendants were charged with a violation of the "anti-trust" act, in that they were maintaining a monopoly in restraint of trade, and practicing illegal discrimination against other persons engaged in the same business.—Among **judicial decisions invalidating "anti-trust" legislation** may be mentioned that of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, December 2, on a special license tax on a sugar-refining company, and that of the Supreme Court of

the United States, March 10, on a law of Illinois which exempts livestock and agricultural products from its application. This the Court declared to be contrary to the provision of the federal constitution guaranteeing the equal protection of the laws.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.—Under the reform administration in New York City strenuous efforts have been made to break up the practice of blackmail, popularly known as "the system," that has been more or less prevalent among police captains and precinct detectives in their dealings with saloon keepers who violate the excise law. The city officials also have tried to facilitate reform by ousting from office a number of Tammany employees. To this end an act of the legislature was obtained, authorizing the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to fix salaries in the municipal service.—The result of the municipal elections in Chicago, held on April 1, showed a victory of the "Gray Wolves," or politician element, in their own districts over "The Municipal Voters League," a body of reformers, although the latter were successful in the city at large. At the same time proposals were popularly ratified for the municipal ownership of street-car systems, lighting plants and other public utilities, as well as for the abolition of the so-called "town governments" within the city limits.—An act of importance to the cities of New Jersey was passed by the legislature of that state, giving to common councils practically complete power over expenditures of money for municipal objects.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.—An event of great importance has been the formation of a voluntary board of industrial arbitrators. A conference of representative employers and workingmen held in New York City, December 17, under the auspices of the National Civic Federation, to discuss means of harmonizing the relations of labor and capital, resolved to appoint a board of thirty-six men for the purpose. Of these, twelve represented organized labor, twelve, the large industrial concerns, and twelve, the public at large. Senator Marcus A. Hanna of Ohio was chosen chairman, and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, vice-chairman. The duties of this board were declared to be the amicable adjustment of disputes between employers and employees, and, if requested by both parties, the exercise of specific powers of arbitration. By the attainment of a compromise postponing the matter for a year, it has already succeeded in averting a strike of garment-makers in New York City for an eight-hour work day.—Elsewhere a number of sporadic strikes have occurred in the mining regions of southern Indiana, western Kentucky and western Missouri, all attended with more or less violence, and, in the case of the last two states, requiring the presence of the militia. Another strike that threatened for a while to paralyze the facilities of transportation in Boston was brought on in March by freight-handlers, who refused to touch merchandise carted by non-union teamsters. Sympathetic strikes swelled the number of discontented workmen to twenty thousand, but the efforts of the governor and the state board of arbitration caused the men to return to

work, and in the end the strike availed nothing.—Two **judicial decisions favorable to labor interests** may be noted. On March 19 the supreme court of Missouri held that courts of equity have no power to enjoin labor organizations from enforcing boycotts on corporations, and on April 1 the Court of Appeals of New York affirmed the right of labor unions to limit their membership and to refuse to work with non-union men.—In the **final report of the Industrial Commission** (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1900, p. 367), submitted February 10, a number of recommendations on the relations of labor and capital are noteworthy. The Commission recommended that Congress should enact a code of laws to regulate the conditions of employment on railroads; should apply the principle of limited compulsory arbitration to interstate carriers; and should remove the abuses connected with the private employment of armed men to defend property and workmen during labor troubles. Greater caution at such times was advised in the use of injunctions. The commission urged uniformity in state legislation on the subject of regulating the hours of labor for young persons, and of paying for labor directly in cash, and suggested the establishment in all the states of labor bureaus empowered to recommend federal and state legislation on matters of importance to labor.

LYNCH LAW.—In contrast to the number of outbreaks under this head mentioned in the last RECORD (p. 747) only twenty-seven examples have been furnished since November. Of these, twenty-three were found in the Southern states, Louisiana heading the list with nine. Murder and murderous assault were the chief crimes alleged in justification of such acts. In three cases, at least, the innocence of the victim was certain. Unusual cruelty appeared only in Georgia, where a mob burned a negro at the stake for murder, and in South Carolina, where "white-caps" shot a white woman to death because they disliked her immoral mode of life. In two of the Southern states, however, namely Mississippi and South Carolina, orderly jury trials and convictions were secured of two negroes who had committed rape upon white women.—On April 17 the circuit court at New Orleans declared illegal the practice in the turpentine districts of Florida and elsewhere in the United States of keeping negro laborers in a state of peonage, or semi-slavery, until they had worked out their debts to their employers.

II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.—An event of some importance was the **sugar conference** at Brussels, which opened December 16. The powers invited to send delegates were Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Holland, Belgium and Roumania. The disinclination of Germany and Austria-Hungary to lower their import duties on sugar to the amount desired by the majority of the participants in the conference prolonged the discussions till March 5.

The compromise then reached, when embodied in a convention, provided for the abolition of all bounties on sugar after September, 1903 (*cf.* RECORD for December, 1898, p. 763), the reduction of import duties to a uniform rate of six francs, and the levy of countervailing duties on sugar from such states as should continue to grant bounties. This convention was ratified by Belgium early in May. — On March 19 France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Greece approved a treaty for the protection of bird life in the countries concerned. — In March occurred a suspension of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Italy. The cause was the refusal of the Swiss government to proceed against the editor of an anarchistic paper for an insult to the memory of the late King Humbert. The Swiss government stood upon the ground that the demand for action was a mere personal act of the Italian ambassador, without a formal complaint lodged on behalf of his government. — For the proffered mediation of Holland between Great Britain and the Boers, see **Africa**, and for the Anglo-Japanese treaty, see **The Orient**.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. — The brief program of legislation announced in the **speech from the throne** at the assembling of Parliament, January 16, bore a close resemblance to that of last year (see RECORD for June, 1901, p. 381). It embraced proposals for the improvement of education, for dealing with the water supply in London, for facilitating the disposal of land in Ireland and for regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors. — One of the earliest subjects of discussion was the **proposed revision of the rules of procedure in the House of Commons**. The general design of the changes was to facilitate legislative work. In connection with the maintenance of order, the new rules attached more serious consequences than heretofore to the suspension of a member, and required an apology before the offender might resume his seat. In case of disorder the speaker was authorized to adjourn the House at his own discretion. The proposed rules also altered the hours of meeting, permitted the introduction of bills without the formal consent of the House, and limited the period for questioning members of the government as well as the power to debate, or challenge divisions, on matters of routine. Against the government's proposition it was urged that the contemplated arrangements tended to suppress debate, unduly curtailed the privileges of private members in the presentation of bills and encouraged resort to obstruction. From the constitutional standpoint objection was raised that an enforcement of the new penalties to the degree of excluding a member from an entire session of Parliament would inflict undue punishment upon a constituency, and violate its right to choose its own representatives. However, the ministry procured a sanction of most of the rules before the termination of this RECORD. — Another ministerial measure of importance was the **new scheme for improvement in the army** offered by the Secretary of State for War as a supplement to that of last year (see RECORD for June, 1901, p. 381). It comprised the formation of a reserve of militia, yeomanry and

volunteers, the relief of officers from certain financial burdens and a betterment of the medical service. The most notable feature was a very substantial increase of pay for both new recruits and veterans, in order to stimulate enlistment and long service in the rank and file. Referring to the support of the colonial contingents in South Africa, the secretary emphasized the advantages of some arrangement that would make the entire force of the Empire available in case of a war involving imperial interests as a whole, and that would "more closely link together the different parts of the British Empire." Shortly after the presentation of this plan the Opposition in the House of Commons endeavored to secure the appointment of a commission to investigate the expenditures of the war office. This attempt met with defeat by a vote of 346 to 191. An earlier effort of similar tenor in the House of Lords had met a like fate. The government then brought forward an **education bill** of a fairly comprehensive sort to take the place of the tentative measure now in force (see last RECORD, p. 748). The new bill aimed to vest in the county and borough councils practically full control of primary and secondary education. It awakened so much controversy, however, that it made little progress toward passage. The same was true of the bill to establish municipal ownership of the London water supply, and of the bill for the government purchase of land in Ireland. The chief objection of the Irish Nationalists to the latter scheme lay in its failure to make the sale to the government compulsory. Other measures of a less controversial character that have made some headway in Parliament are those to lessen habitual drunkenness by a stricter regulation of licenses; to grant old-age pensions to the deserving poor; and to protect copyrights on musical works. — **The budget** presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, April 14, estimated the expenditure for the ensuing year at £174,609,000, which would involve a deficit of about £45,500,000. The most striking measure proposed to meet this deficit was the **imposition of duties on cereals**. Other expedients for the purpose were an increase in the income tax, a suspension of the sinking fund and a doubling of the stamp tax on checks and dividend warrants. In addition, £32,000,000 was to be borrowed and the remainder of the deficit made up by drafts on unexpended exchequer balances. — A series of **disturbances in Ireland** proceeding from the agitation of the United Irish League took the form of intimidation, boycotting, non-payment of rent and general incitement to lawlessness. At length, in April, the government authorized **coercive measures** in certain districts. These included a resort to summary jurisdiction, special juries, change of *venue* at the option of the crown and the suppression of branches of the League as dangerous associations.

THE BRITISH COLONIES. — The Parliament of the Dominion of **Canada**, which assembled February 13, has devoted much of its session to a consideration of bills for the grant of subsidies to the merchant marine, and for the construction of a canal to connect the waters of Lakes Erie and Huron. In Manitoba, where the plebiscite in 1898 on the question of

prohibiting the liquor traffic resulted in favor of prohibition (see RECORD for December, 1898, p. 764), a special act for this purpose was defeated in April, on a popular vote, by a large majority. — Of the several legislative measures pending in the **Parliament of Australia** (see last RECORD, p. 749) the only one that secured approval in either house was that passed by the Senate in December, dealing with the restriction of alien immigration. The House of Representatives, however, has spent considerable time in discussion of the proposed tariff, adjusting the differences between the protectionists and a combination of the labor members with the free traders. — Among the separate states of the commonwealth the most important act of legislation was that which established a **court of compulsory arbitration in New South Wales**. As passed December 6, the act vests this court with full power to deal with industrial disputes without appeal, and makes strikes and lockouts misdemeanors punishable at law. The court may even fix the scale of wages and, under certain circumstances, compel employers to hire union, in preference to non-union, labor. An important factor in the authority to enforce its decisions is the right to declare any practice or condition of employment a "common rule" for all persons engaged in the industry under consideration. The legislature of New South Wales also sanctioned an act extending the scope of occupation licenses and the tenure of leaseholds on certain lands, fixing the rents to be paid, and assigning the ownership of improvements thereon to the crown at the end of a given period.

FRANCE. — Foremost among recent legislative measures was the act providing for the payment of **subsidies to the merchant marine**. It gives to vessels built in France subsidies proportionate to their tonnage, and similar amounts to vessels built elsewhere on condition that the majority of the directors in the companies owning them are Frenchmen. A special feature of the law is the so-called "outfit bounty," to improve the class of steamships used in time of war. Another project to stimulate commerce, adopted by the Chamber of Deputies, January 28, appropriated upwards of 600,000,000 francs for the construction of new canals and the betterment of harbors and existing waterways. In some cases, however, the localities affected are to share the cost with the government. The discussion on various items in the financial arrangements of the year evoked from the budget committee a proposal to abolish the ministry of public worship. At the demand of the government the Chamber rejected it by a vote of 350 to 187. — Several **measures concerning labor** are to be noted. As approved by the Chamber of Deputies, they fix the number of hours for daily employment on railroads at ten, reduce those in mines gradually to eight and limit the number of consecutive days in the week on which work may be demanded. The Chamber also voted for a grant of amnesty to all persons, except anarchists, imprisoned for strike offenses. — Outside of Paris the **general elections** for the Chamber of Deputies, held April 27, resulted in a triumph for the Waldeck-Rousseau cabinet. The indications

before the taking of the second ballot were that the nominal majority of the cabinet in the Chamber of Deputies would be increased by about thirty.

GERMANY. — The chief incident of public interest has been the **contest over the tariff bill** between the Agrarians and the government in the tariff committee of the Reichstag. During the course of his speech introducing the measure, December 2, the imperial chancellor declared that the new tariff (*cf.* last RECORD, p. 751) gave more protection to agriculture, remedied the defects of the existing arrangements as applied to industrial conditions and afforded a better means of safeguarding German welfare in the negotiation of commercial treaties. In reply the Agrarians demanded an increase in the duties and the establishment of a minimum rate on agricultural products, threatening that otherwise the Conservatives as a body would defeat both the bill and all commercial agreements founded on the tariff now in force. They insisted also that imports should have certificates of origin, and, in the absence of treaty limitations, should pay the same rate of duty as that levied on German products of a similar kind in the ports of foreign states. Despite the opposition of the government, supported chiefly by the Radicals and Social Democrats, amendments embracing these stipulations were all adopted before the project was again submitted to the Reichstag. — That body approved bills providing for a comprehensive regulation of the conditions of seafaring life, confining the jurisdiction over offenses of the press to courts in the localities where they occurred, and amending the election law so as better to insure secrecy in voting. Aside from the routine work on the budget, the only other measures of importance that claimed the attention of the Reichstag were the Centrist bill for liberty of worship throughout the Empire (see RECORD for June, 1901, p. 384), and a bill to restrict the employment of children. — The speech from the throne at the opening of the **Prussian Landtag**, January 8, referred to the financial straits of the country, owing for the most part to the decrease in receipts from the state railroads, and proposed various matters for legislation. These included the improvement of housing facilities for state workmen and officials with small salaries, the extension of the railway system and a new canal bill (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1901, p. 384). The speech also emphasized the need for salutary measures to check the agitation in the Polish districts of eastern Prussia, and expressed the determination of the government to maintain German national supremacy. The agitation referred to was that connected with the "Wreschen school scandals." The chastisement of some children in a public school who refused to pay any attention to religious instruction in the German language occasioned the interference of their parents, some of whom were imprisoned for "opprobrious and seditious" conduct. In April the Prussian government forbade the immigration of Poles unless they were provided with fully attested passports and a suitable sum of ready money. Physically unsound persons and young children were absolutely

excluded. — A notable abandonment of particularism was that of Wurtemberg in February, when it agreed to discontinue the issue of separate postage stamps.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY. — **The tension over the language trouble** has reappeared in the Reichsrath (*cf.* last RECORD, p. 751). Early in the session the prime minister, Dr. von Koerber, hinted at the possibility of suspending the constitution, unless the revival of dilatory and disorderly practices should stop. The Reichsrath did allow measures like the provisional budget, the raising of recruits, the authorization of certain agricultural bodies and amendments to the industrial laws to go through, but the defeat of a resolution offered by the Pan-Germans against the extension of Czech educational facilities in Styria brought on a disgraceful tumult, April 9, that forced the president to suspend the session. — More than a dozen persons were killed and nearly a hundred injured in February during the course of a conflict between the military and mobs of strikers and anarchists in Trieste. — In the discussions of the delegations at Pesth over the renewal of the economic arrangements between Austria and Hungary something of a deadlock has ensued over the refusal of the former to accept certain duties on agricultural products, and of the latter to allow an increase of duties on industrial goods.

RUSSIA. — Public life in this country during the past six months has been pervaded with **revolutionary unrest and disturbance** of a more radical character than the agitation heretofore described (see RECORDS for June, 1901, p. 385, and December, 1901, p. 752). Not only students and workmen, but the peasantry as well have been involved. After a series of encounters between students and workingmen on the one side and the police and military on the other, resulting in the death or injury of a large number of persons, the government closed several of the universities, notably those of Kieff, Kharkoff and St. Petersburg, and placed under the partial control of military authorities about twenty cities and towns, most of which are the seats of higher educational institutions. The students themselves and their coadjutors were arrested by wholesale and imprisoned, or banished to Siberia and other remote localities. On April 15, a reputed student assassinated M. Sipiaguine, the Minister of the Interior, who, according to common report, had upheld a policy of severe coercion in dealing with the outbreaks. M. de Plehve, the secretary of state for Finland, became his successor. About the same time General Vannovsky, the minister of public instruction (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1901, p. 386), resigned his office on account of his failure to gain approval for his plans of modernizing the educational system, particularly in secondary schools. His successor was M. Sānger, the assistant minister of education. The revolutionary agitation, added to hunger and destitution, incited a series of **peasant outbreaks**, mainly in southern Russia, during the course of which numerous estates were pillaged and destroyed. — The extensive schemes of M. de Witte, the Minister of Finance, for the **encouragement**

of **shipping interests** deserve mention. For example, the Russian volunteer fleet is to enjoy subsidies, exemptions from taxation and other privileges, on condition that it maintains a regular traffic between Russia and the Far East, satisfies a number of specified requirements and submits to government supervision. The government further agrees to advance liberal sums for construction, insurance and maintenance, provided that the beneficiaries are exclusively Russians, and that a number of stipulations are observed dealing with the specifications of vessels, the use of Russian fuel and the amount of Russian products carried.—The enforcement of measures designed to effect the **extinction of Finnish autonomy** has proceeded with much vigor. Orders published in December abolished all distinctions between the Finnish and the Russian military bodies, directed the prosecution of clergymen who refused to read decrees from their pulpits, and substituted Russians in the public service for Finlanders who ventured to oppose the policy of the government. This significant admission of Russians to all the public offices in the grand duchy was followed by the abolition of the special telegraph bureau and the practical disbandment of the Finnish police. On the other hand, the resignation of the entire medical board in Finland to avoid the physical examination of recruits and the absolute refusal of the great majority of communes to elect boards of conscription betokened **resistance to the new military regulations** (see last RECORD, p. 752). Indeed, on April 17 and 18, the summons of recruits for the Helsingfors district revealed an attendance of less than seven per cent of the levy, and in the course of the enrollment a popular tumult ensued, only to be quelled by Cossacks. Still, the opposition was so successful that an imperial rescript, issued April 22, announced a postponement of the time for the recruits to present themselves, but added, warningly, that any further evasion of military duty would "lead to the conviction that the present form of government in Finland was no longer suitable."—In order to cope with the difficulties arising from the presence of 40,000 Armenian refugees in the Caucasus region, orders were issued in November providing for the naturalization of these people as Russian subjects.

ITALY.—In the adjourned session of the Parliament, which opened November 27, the Zanardelli ministry eventually secured the **adoption of measures for financial reform** similar to those described in the RECORD for June, 1901, p. 386, but exclusive of the proposed reduction in the salt tax (see below). They included a decrease in the registration duties upon small transfers of property and an increase of taxes on negotiable paper and foreign corporations. The success of the cabinet in this respect is attributable in some degree to the report of the Minister of Finance, showing a remarkable surplus in the treasury, and to an attractive project, which was approved, for the establishment of a public labor bureau. To break up the practice under which adverse votes on measures of the government were permitted to affect only the minister from whose department they

emanated, the cabinet, in November, adopted rules of procedure whereby it will henceforth assume collective responsibility for all projects brought forward by any minister.—In **the speech from the throne** at the opening of the Parliament, February 20, the king announced the introduction of measures reducing the price of salt, relieving the working classes of certain burdens, especially in connection with the forms of contract, and further protecting Italian monuments of antiquity. In particular a bill was promised that should deal with divorce and the rights of illegitimate children “in harmony with the common law of other nations.” As to the relations between state and church, the pronouncement of the address was as follows: “My government intends to maintain strictly the separation between the civil order and the spiritual order; to honor the clergy, but to keep them within their own sphere; and to pay the most profound respect to religion and liberty of conscience, but, at the same time, to preserve absolutely intact the prerogatives of civil power and the rights of national sovereignty.” An effort to procure the reelection of Signor Villa to the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies resulted in a **temporary defeat of the ministry**. The cabinet resigned, but at the request of the king resumed office. Its **frustration of a great railroad strike** that threatened to assume revolutionary proportions was a noteworthy achievement. On February 24 it issued a decree ordering the mobilization of the reservists employed in the railway service. At the same time the ministry endeavored to compose the dispute between the railroad companies and their employees, which was of long standing and concerned the rate of wages, the methods of promotion and other matters. As a provisional concession to the demands of the men, the government agreed to make a **contribution from the public treasury** of more than \$6,000,000, while the railroad companies should supply the small remainder of the amount disputed. The cabinet then obtained the election of a new candidate for president of the Chamber, March 10, and five days later the decree for mobilizing the reservists was revoked.—An altercation in the Senate over this decree between General Pelloux, the former prime minister, and Signor Giolitti, the Minister of the Interior, occasioned the retirement from the cabinet, late in April, of General Ponza di San Martino, the Minister of War.

Spain.—In several of the localities mentioned in the RECORD for December, 1901, p. 753, there has been a **recurrence of strike riots** more or less instigated by anarchists. The metal workers of Barcelona, especially, unable to obtain suitable concessions to their demands for fewer hours, for ease of communication with their employers and for a variety of other privileges, started a strike in January that, when joined by other workmen out of sympathy, involved 80,000 men. The displays of violence caused a stoppage of practically all business and transportation in the city until martial law had been proclaimed, and, by the end of February, the police and military had quelled the disorder. On March 17 the government promulgated a decree fixing an eight-hour day for persons employed

on public works. — **Financial reform** was the chief matter of legislative activity. In order to improve the rate of exchange for gold, and particularly to lessen the premium on that metal, in February the Cortes passed a bill providing for the payment of customs duties on a number of commodities in gold. The discord prevalent in the cabinet over the fitness of this measure to accomplish the object sought, over the wisdom of an issue of paper money and over the determination of the relations of the government with the Bank of Spain led to the **resignation of the cabinet**, March 12. The queen regent sought to have a coalition ministry formed that would not interfere with the religious orders, but, failing in this, intrusted the reconstruction of the cabinet to Señor Sagasta. The new ministry included four members of the former body, besides the premier. Among the features of its program for legislation were the creation of a department of labor, the gradual abolition of octroi duties, the reorganization of the navy, a greater amount of self-government in the localities and a reform of the ecclesiastical system, by lessening the number of bishoprics, and by otherwise strengthening the state against encroachments from the church. The program also embraced a modified measure for adjusting relations between the national treasury and Bank of Spain, and the lower house of the Cortes gave its approval to the measure, April 29.

MINOR EUROPEAN STATES. — Under this head perhaps the most notable incident has been the **riotous agitation for equality of suffrage in Belgium**. The inflexible opposition of the clerical majority in the Chamber of Deputies to the proposal of the Socialists and Liberals for an abolition of plural voting, in April, caused socialistic outbreaks of a serious character in Brussels and elsewhere. As a means of forcing the issue, the Socialists tried to provoke a general strike of the working classes. Violent collisions with the police and military marked the course of events for several days, until many persons had been killed or wounded. These excesses, however, alienated the Liberals and public sentiment in general, so that, by the end of the month, normal conditions were restored. Among measures enacted into law may be mentioned those which granted a bounty to producers of beet sugar, suppressed the practice of gambling, and reorganized the army by reducing the term of service and increasing the effective strength through an extension of the volunteer system. — A popular demonstration for universal suffrage, similar to that in Belgium, but on a much smaller scale, occurred about the same time in **Sweden**. On May 3 the parliament of this country passed a measure establishing a progressive income tax, to meet the cost of the recent changes in the military service (see last RECORD, p. 754). — Considerable popular agitation, even to the extent of violence, has arisen in **Portugal** against recent conventions with the foreign holders of the national debt. — Late in November, there was a **popular outbreak in Greece against a proposed translation of the Scriptures** from ancient Greek into the present vernacular. Under the auspices of the Queen arrangements had been made to

prepare an authorized version of the Bible in modern Greek for general use, but, in the popular estimation, this was regarded as a deliberate scheme of Panslavism to lessen the traditional authority of the Greek Scriptures and the orthodox church. During the course of disturbances at Athens, kindled chiefly by students of the university, seven persons lost their lives, fifty more were injured and the prime minister narrowly escaped assassination. As a result of the excitement a new cabinet had to be installed. — The *Sobranje* of **Bulgaria**, in November, adopted a measure that established the principle of the irremovability of judicial officers. Its refusal, however, to approve a plan of the coalition ministry (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1901, p. 387) to secure a loan from a foreign corporation, which was to exercise supervision over Bulgarian revenues, led in January to a reconstruction of the cabinet, and then to the dissolution of the *Sobranje* itself. The ensuing elections gave a substantial majority to the new ministry of Russophil complexion. — On the payment of the ransom demanded, in February, the Turkish brigands released Miss Stone, the American missionary, from captivity (*cf.* last RECORD, p. 755). — **Friction between Turkey and Austria-Hungary** was removed by an agreement reached November 12, soon after the compliance of the sultan with the demands of France (see last RECORD, p. 755). The Porte conceded the payment of indemnities, the infliction of punishment, and the restitution of property, in cases of injuries to Austrian subjects, the right to erect Catholic churches and schoolhouses, the grant of railway and manufacturing concessions and the submission of other matters in dispute to a court of arbitration. On January 17, also, the Turkish government issued an irade approving the final convention for completing the (German) Anatolian railway system between the Bosphorus and the Persian Gulf (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1900, p. 376). The terms included the advancement of fixed sums for the construction and maintenance of the railroad, the building of harbors and the establishment of steam service on certain rivers.

THE ORIENT. — The most significant event in the Far East has been the formation of an **alliance between Great Britain and Japan**. The preamble of the treaty, signed January 30, states that the contracting parties were "specially interested in maintaining the independence and territorial integrity" of China and Corea, and "in securing equal opportunities in those countries for the commerce and industry of all nations." The treaty itself provides for the armed coöperation of the parties concerned should either of them become involved in war with two or more powers. It is agreed, also, that neither ally shall conclude a separate agreement with any power to the prejudice of their respective interests. In reply to the announcement of policy embodied in this treaty, France and Russia issued a joint note, March 19. They asserted that they regarded the agreement as an "affirmation of the essential principles which they themselves . . . have declared to constitute, and which remain, the basis of their policy." At the same time, in view of possible difficulties that might arise affecting

"the integrity and free development of China," they would reserve "the right to consider eventually the means of insuring the defense of their interests." — As to **affairs in China** proper, it may be said that, after the opposition of the other powers had caused Russia to abandon its earlier **terms for an evacuation of Manchuria** (see RECORD for June, 1901, p. 390), negotiations to this end were resumed. Russia insisted upon stipulations that prolonged the period of gradual evacuation to three years at least, asserted the practical control of Russia over the Chinese troops in Manchuria, put forward claims to industrial concessions, and forbade the extension of certain railway systems without Russian consent. Great Britain and Japan supported the refusal of China to accept these terms. The United States also addressed a note to Russia, February 1, protesting against the acquisition by that power of any special privileges in Manchuria, as hurtful to China and as involving a violation of treaty rights and of the principle of the "open door." Eventually, on April 8, Russia agreed to modify its demands. The treaty then concluded with China declared Manchuria to be an "integral portion of the Chinese Empire," and fixed eighteen months as the period for a gradual evacuation of the province by Russia, provided that no disturbance arose in the region and that the other powers did not interfere. So long, however, as Russian troops might remain in Manchuria, the Chinese military authorities should "come to an agreement" with those of Russia as to the number and stations of the Chinese soldiers. Russia consented, also, to restore the Shan-hai-kwan-Niu-Chwang-Sin-Min-Ting railway to Chinese management, provided that China would undertake the sole care of it, obtain the approval of Russia for changes in the railroad system, and pay a separate indemnity for the recent expenditures of Russia on its repair and maintenance. — Among the **unsettled questions arising out of the Chinese imbroglio** is that connected with the private claims for additional indemnities set up by various powers. In order to meet them it was suggested that the powers should reduce proportionately their shares of the general indemnity, and thus keep the total within the sum already fixed (see last RECORD, p. 756). To this proposition, however, Great Britain would not agree, for the reason that the private claims in question were excessive in comparison with its own. Another matter that caused some discussion was the request of the Chinese government that it be allowed to resume control over Tien-tsin. The diplomatic representatives of the European powers would not concede this without substantial guaranties of a military character to insure the preservation of public order and the security of foreigners in the province of Pe-chi-li. On similar conditions, including that of supervision by an international board, April 29, Great Britain agreed to restore to China the control of the Peking-Tien-tsin-Shan-hai-kwan railroad. — The **return of the court to Peking** took place on January 7. Before and after this event several important **edicts of reform** were issued. They deposed the heir apparent on the alleged ground of the crimes committed by his father, the banished

Prince Tuan (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1900, p. 376, and that for December, 1900, pp. 761, 766). They encouraged "western ideas" of education by the erection of a special ministerial department, the extension of the existing field of European culture and the sending of Manchus, as well as Chinese, abroad for study. They deprecated the practice of foot-binding, and authorized the intermarriage of Manchus and Chinese. Also, in order to obviate frequent disturbances, a set of rules was provided for to restrain the interference of Catholic missionaries in litigation between converts and non-Christians.

AFRICA.—During the past six months the conduct of the **British military operations against the Boers** has had one feature of particular interest, namely, the formation of several corps of Boer volunteers for service on the British side under the name of "National Scouts." The extension of the blockhouse system, and the practice of harrying, or "driving," the Boer forces, materially reduced them in numbers and resources, though not without a few severe reverses to the British. In one of these, March 7, General Methuen, the second in command in South Africa, was wounded and captured by the Boer commander, Delarey. Owing, however, to the Boer custom of liberating prisoners he speedily obtained his release. Another method of wearing out the Boer resistance was that made apparent in an order of the military authorities, issued in December, which forbade the landing of strangers in the Cape Colony, or in Natal, except under the most stringent regulations.—On January 25, Great Britain received an **offer of mediation from the Netherlands**. As a means of facilitating negotiations for peace the Dutch government proposed that the Boer agents accredited to it should be given a safe-conduct to go to South Africa to consult with the burghers in the field on the advisability of ending the struggle. Great Britain declined to entertain the suggestion, specifically on the grounds that the Boer delegates had no authority to act, and that terms of peace could be discussed in South Africa only. At the same time the British government declared that "the quickest and most satisfactory means of arranging a settlement would be a direct communication from the leaders of the Boer forces" to the British military authorities. **Proposals for peace from the Boers** soon followed. On March 22, Messrs. Schalk-Burger, Reitz and other members of the so-called "Acting Transvaal Government" held a conference with Lord Kitchener at Pretoria, as a result of which they obtained a safe-conduct to discuss terms of peace with Mr. Steyn, General de Wet and other "irreconcilables" of the former Orange Free State. Lord Kitchener also agreed to facilitate the submission of the question to a vote of the rank and file of the burghers under arms.

LATIN AMERICA.—Little public interest has been excited by the **revolutionary movements** in the northern part of South America (see last RECORD, p. 758), except when the struggles in Colombia so far endangered the persons and property of foreigners on the isthmus of Panama

as to require the landing of marines from foreign warships. In December an insurrection was started in Venezuela against the rule of President Castro. During the next month a riotous tumult took place in Paraguay over a question of presidential succession. Similarly, in Santo Domingo, a rebellion in May displaced the president, Juan Jiminez (*cf.* RECORD for December, 1899, p. 760), in favor of the vice president, Horatio Vasquez.—The possibility of a war between Chile and the Argentine Republic over some disputed territory was averted in December by their agreement upon a *modus vivendi*, pending the reference of the question to a British arbitrator.—In the relations between Latin-American states and the countries of Europe the **disputes of Venezuela with France and Germany** occupied some prominence. Upon a threat from France to impose duties on cacao, Venezuela agreed, April 29, to pay certain claims of French citizens (see last RECORD, p. 759), and to submit others to arbitration. Diplomatic relations were thereupon resumed, and a commercial treaty was concluded. Venezuela made similar terms regarding the arbitration of the German claims. In March, Spain signed treaties with most of the Latin-American states, including Santo Domingo, that provided for courts of arbitration composed of Spanish-Americans, but with a reservation of disputes over the personnel of the courts to the decision of the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.—On December 9, the Bolivian Congress approved postal and extradition treaties with the United States.—Among the topics for discussion in the **Pan-American Congress** at Mexico were extradition, the creation of a Pan-American bank, the codification of international laws and the establishment of international copyright. The dominant theme, however, was the principle of compulsory arbitration of international differences. On this point the members of the Congress sharply divided. Chile, supported by the United States and a minority of the lesser powers, opposed the scheme, while the Argentine Republic, Mexico and the majority favored it. At length, January 17, the delegates resolved unanimously to accept in principle the several conventions of the Peace Conference at The Hague through the medium of the United States and Mexico, subject to the approval of the various home governments. The president of the latter republic, also, was requested to prepare for submission to the next session of the Congress a specific project for a convention of arbitration, based upon the sentiments of all the states concerned. At the same time the representatives of nine states made a separate agreement among themselves in favor of compulsory arbitration under certain restrictions. In this connection it may be mentioned that, in January, the presidents of the states of Central America signed a treaty providing for the adjustment of their international difficulties by a specified court of arbitration.

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